

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 25-39 are currently pending in the present Application, with claims 13-14 withdrawn pursuant to Election/Restriction Requirement.

Claims 25-31 and 34-39 stand allowed, while claims 2-3, 6, 10-12, 15-16 and 32-33 stand objected to, but allowable if rewritten into independent form and the rejection of claims 32-33 under § 112, second paragraph is overcome.

Claims 1 and 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,224,088 to Lohavanijaya ("Lohavanijaya"). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lohavanijaya in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,189,960 to Mumura, *et al.* ("Mumura").

The Applicants wish to express their gratitude for the allowance of claims 25-31 and 34-39, and the indication that claims 2-3, 6, 10-12, 15-16 and 32-33 recite patentable subject matter. In order to place the claims into condition for allowance, the Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 2. The pending rejections under §§ 102 and 103 are therefore moot.

As to the remaining rejections under § 112, second paragraph, the Applicants traverse the rejections on the grounds that claims 7-8 and 32-33 are sufficiently definite.

The April 22, 2004 Office Action maintains that claims 7-8 and 32-33 are indefinite because it is not clear what particular conventional steering wheel airbag is claimed. The Applicants respectfully submit that which particular

steering wheel airbag is irrelevant, and that the scope of these claims, as presently recited, is clear.

Regardless of the “particular conventional steering wheel airbag” under consideration, the scope of claims 7 and 32 extend to an airbag in a car roof frame of claim 1 which “unfolds more slowly than” *whatever* conventional steering wheel airbag is present in the car. Similarly claims 8 and 33 extend to an airbag of claim 1 in which. “after unfolding, an inflated state is maintained longer than” *whatever* conventional steering wheel airbag is present in the car. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art can readily discern what combination of airbags is within the scope of claims 7-8 and 32-33.

Because each of claims 7-8 and 32-33 recites a definite claim scope readily understood by those of ordinary skill in the art, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 112, second paragraph, rejections.

CONCLUSION

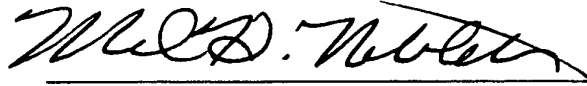
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that upon entry of the foregoing amendments the Application will be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 3-16 and 25-39 is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #225/50712US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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